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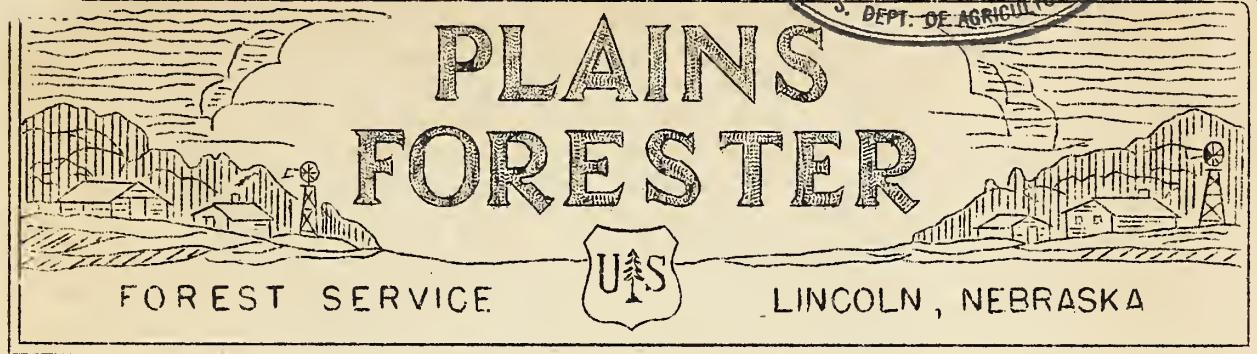
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YOU'RE IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE

The following is adapted from a "Personnel Bulletin" of the Department Office of Personnel, written by Roy F. Hendrickson. It contains a thought all too often overlooked by people in the public employ.

"Every four years we public employees are exposed to a barrage of words like 'bureaucracy' and 'irresponsibility', and reproached with phrases of unpleasant connotation. This experience is not without wholesome effect, for it reminds us, as public servants, of the obligations we have to the public we serve. But how many of us, from day to day, make a practice of evaluating the contributions we are making to good public service?

"In a democracy there is no place for the civil servant who can not recognize what his real boss looks like. His real boss is not his superior or the chief of his bureau. His real boss is the American people, represented perhaps by the impatient man sitting in the front office drumming his fingers on the desk while he waits. This boss may not always be impressive in appearance. Since he is generally a man who works with his hands--a plain American citizen--his clothes may be soiled, his fingernails dirty, and his hair uncombed. He is eager to be on with his work and the impatient way he squirms in his chair may make you nervous. He's your boss, this man, and he may be a tougher one than the man you think you work for. He's sensitive and at times appears to be unreasonable. You may have a good program, an efficient organization, a good line of talk and some readable publications, but if you or your supervisor cannot serve his needs he may want to fire you and your whole outfit. He has work to do and he wants to be on with it.

"He may be prejudiced against you from the start. He's heard a lot of things about Government employees and naturally he believes many of them. He suspects that you spend too much time gallivanting around the country. He has seen abuse of his property, especially the Government car bought with his taxes. Sometimes he thinks you act self-important, put on airs, and generally give evidence of having forgotten that you are merely a small instrument in this Government of, by, and for the people.

"These small day-to-day evaluations of your work for your boss--the American people--will serve to remind you of the attitude which must be reflected in your behavior. And in evaluating your work, if you will think of the plain citizen who comes to see you, or whom you go to see, as your employer, your attitude toward him and his attitude toward you will be more improved than if you think of him as an economic abstraction, a political difficulty, an annoying problem or a plain pest. If you prove to your citizen-boss that you are friendly and willing to serve, you will find his attitude toward you changing. This is not superficial courtesy or 'glad-handing'; it is a reflection of a genuine sense of obligation toward the public, a feeling that this man is paying you to help solve his problems, that his problems are your problems.

"In sum, begin to make a day-to-day audit of your basic psychological attitudes toward the people with whom you deal. It takes more than efficient organization and technically trained personnel to produce acceptable results. The task of the Department of Agriculture looms large in the economy of our nation. To be continuously successful in discharging our job we must obtain the highest degree of public cooperation. Let us remember that the aim in our Department may be most effectively achieved if we nurture the concept that administration must be fundamentally a democratic process."

VISUAL SUGGESTION

Cultivation in the south starts early--or at least should. Along about March 1 as the planting season nears its end(?) we start aiming toward the eradication of the "soil robbers." This year to start the year off right the Shamrock district constructed a model, 4-row shelterbelt (space would not permit more rows) of threshed kaffir heads, in the office display window. The kaffir heads were sprayed with green paint to represent green foliage and a sprinkling of fresh earth between the rows gave a very natural effect. A small toy tractor was borrowed from Master Tommy Johnston and hitched to a small disc harrow to add realism to the effect of a farmer cultivating his trees.

Small shields cut from scraps of plywood furnished materials for the signs in the background and Mrs. Johnson graciously offered to burn the message of the advantages of cultivation into the wooden shields with an electric pen. Congressman Josh Lee of Oklahoma, who was in Shamrock as a guest speaker for the annual St. Patrick Day celebration, (28,000 visitors) stopped to admire the window and said, "All of the shelterbelts would look like that if the farmers would cultivate them properly."

Visual education sure puts the message across and is swell until the window must be changed. Master Tommy wants his tractor back, and the "Missus" is too busy with her spring gardening to make a new display. So "Woe Is Me."

- Ralph V. Johnston, Tex.

"The art of conservation is to be prompt without being stubborn, to refute without argument, and to clothe great matters in a motley garb."
Disraeli (Reg. 9 "Daily Contact")

CULTIVATION MEETINGS

For the past few years our Subdistrict Officers have been holding a series of "cultivation demonstration meetings" for the purpose of showing cooperators how farm machinery can be used to cultivate their shelterbelts. Our field officers advise that this type of meeting brings good results the first time it is tried in an area, but the next year only a few of the better cooperators attend so the effort is more or less wasted.

Cultivation always has and always will be a bugbear, and in my judgment more so this year due to a shortage of labor on the farms resulting from the selection of farm boys for the draft. Therefore, we felt that every known means should be used to get our cultivation story over to the cooperators in this state.

Insofar as meetings are concerned, we plan to hold the "demonstration type" in communities opened up this year, and an evening meeting in areas where the field meetings have been held previously. These evening meetings will be held on a community basis for the purpose of advising people in attendance the progress to date insofar as the community plan is concerned, explaining again what constitutes a complete protection plan for the community and also the individual farm. The Subdistrict Officer will have a map of the townships to illustrate these points and it would be very desirable to have an individual farm drawn on a piece of cardboard, showing the location of the farmstead, the fields, existing trees, and shelterbelts and windbreaks necessary for complete protection. The Forest Service Officers should carefully explain how each individual farm owner fits into the community plan, how his shelterbelt not only protects his land but also protects his neighbor's land and he in turn receives benefits from his neighbor's belt.

Then, too, the Forest Service Officer should also set aside a portion of the meeting whereby the people in attendance can bring up problems in connection with their shelterbelts, grievances which they might have of one form or another, or short cuts, special ways of handling problem areas, such as blow outs, water erosion, wet spots, etc., special tools which they have adopted for maintaining their trees, and a hundred and one other items.

The Forest Officer could also briefly touch on the rehabilitation of shelterbelts, how to handle rodent- and winter-injured trees and, of course, very forcibly bring out the point that cultivation is necessary for satisfactory survival and growth of trees.

This night meeting would be a "general purpose meeting" and it might be climaxed with doughnuts and coffee, a wiener roast, a movie, or some other form of entertainment. In other words "cultivation" would be camouflaged in the announcement but it would not be omitted when the program for the meeting was prepared and presented.

- Fred W. Pierce, Kans.

He that plants trees loves others besides himself.--Sir Hans Sloane.
"Conservation"

NATURE'S BALANCE

Much has been written concerning the Armistice Day freeze and its effect on trees. Not much damage was evident in South Dakota immediately after the freeze or throughout the early spring. Trees budded as usual in most instances. However, it is now plainly evident that Chinese Elm has suffered heavily along with fruit trees. What few orchards there are have been badly damaged.

Our primary concern is, of course, the Chinese Elm. It is one of two possible species for fast-growing high rows. Cottonwood has also caused considerable concern because of its failure on low water table soils. Now the attractive Chinese Elm has demonstrated its weakness, the lack of hardiness. In other words, some of those "bugs" which are present in the rapid progress of emergency work have bobbed up for a solution before our shelterbelts have become a finished product. It will be necessary to repair the gaps left in the ranks, and then to prevent reoccurrences, give more careful consideration of seed source if that is possible.

It is interesting to observe that north and west rows suffered most heavily. This may be attributed to lack of drifted snow which was present to protect the rows on the lee side. Most of the damaging freeze wrought the havoc by killing the cambium at the ground line or just below. The younger belts suffered the greatest losses.

Farmstead windbreak plantings and city trees suffered heavily also with little rhyme or reason as to location. The dead trees appear sporadically among the live trees which might indicate different degrees of hardiness to freeze, other factors being equal. Seed picked from these remaining trees might result in more hardy specimens merely by the natural selection process which has taken place.

- Harold E. Davidson, S. Dak.

CONTINUOUS MOVIE EXHIBIT

Robert A. Dellberg, reporting on an exhibit put on at the Wichita Road and Tractor Show, says that it consisted of a dark room seating 50 persons and continuous showing of motion picture films on Forest Service activities. Though the room was located on a balcony, about 2,000 persons entered the exhibit and Dellberg says that they generally stayed through the entire show, which lasted 40 minutes.

That this type of exhibit is gaining in popularity is attested by the fact that five business concerns used this type of show at this fair. Dellberg thinks the idea would be even better at smaller fairs because there would not be so much competition.

EFFECT OF TEMPERATURE ON DAMPING OFF

In a recent Technical Note issued by the Lake States Forest Experiment Station I came across some tests on the effect of temperature on the germination of boxelder and wild plum. This reminded me that as long as several months ago I promised to send in the results of the effect of temperature on the germination of some of the deciduous species I have been

testing for damping-off. These temperature tests on germination were, of course, incidental to the damping-off study, but may be of interest to the field men.

The tests were run in carefully controlled temperature cases. Soil temperatures were especially uniform while air temperatures fluctuated a few degrees. The seed of all species was sown in crocks. Nothing was added to the sand during the tests except water. The results secured from the tests with 600 seed of each species were as follows:

TEMPERATURE								
	: Air Species : 61° F.	Soil : 59° F.	Air : 71° F.	Soil : 69° F.	Air : 81° F.	Soil : 77° F.	Air : 90° F.	Soil : 85° F.
Germination Percent								
American elm	13			40		43		42
Chinese elm	56			54		53		43
Black locust	33			53		50		50
Desert willow	0			24		55		62

Tests based on 200 seed for Caragana showed the following germination 61° F.--0, 71° F.--8%, 81° F.--No test, 90° F.--22%.

The percentage of germination at the different temperatures is interesting but does not show the true effect on growth. This is better illustrated when the pots from the low temperature tests were removed and placed at higher temperatures. See following tabulation:

Species	After 5 weeks at 61° F.		After 1 additional week at 77-81° F.		Increase Germination Percent
	No.	Height mm.	No.	Height mm.	
American elm	41	45	88	50	115
Chinese elm	163	65	183	90	12
Black locust	131	70	147	130	12
Desert willow	23	10	85	110	226

From the above tests it appears that American elm should not be sown early in the spring when soil temperatures are low nor too late when temperatures are high. Desert willow is another species that should not be sown in the early spring but can be sown when the temperatures are relatively high. Chinese elm and black locust grew fairly well at all the temperatures tested and can, therefore, be sown earlier than the other species. From limited tests with Caragana, this species should apparently not be sown early because it evidently is favored by high temperatures. This is surprising since it is generally recognized as originally from a cold habitat.

- Ernest Wright, Associate Pathologist.

A TARP FRAME FOR PLANTING TRUCK

Other field men may be interested in the frame for truck tarps now in use on the Cherokee subdistrict in Oklahoma. It is strong, firm and avoids corners which might cut the tarp.

We used four 3/4" pipes, each 12 feet in length, bowed to arch over the truck. The last 18 inches at each end are left straight to lie against the stake side walls. Each end fits into a short piece of 2" x 4" which is bored part way through longitudinally and acts as a rest for the bows. The 2" x 4" is bolted to the sides of the truck. For added security we shaped U-bolts out of 1/4" guy wire loops in each end of the "U". A bolt fitted through the loops holds the bows fast to an upright stake in the wall.

A straight piece of pipe is used for a ridge pole to keep the frame from swaying and bending in the wind. Straps about 1-1/2" wide, salvaged from a yard where telephone poles are unloaded, make good supports to keep the tarp from sagging. There are two of these on each side parallel to the ridge pole. They are cut long enough to carry them down in front of the fore bow to keep the tarp from whipping. These ends come together fanwise just behind the rear window of the cab. Pipes bolted low on the sides, parallel to the bed make ideal posts to fasten the tarp down.

All joints are bolted in preference to welding to make dismantling possible, and wrapped with burlap to prevent cutting the tarp.

A convenient arrangement for tree boxes and tools in the truck has been tried out here and found successful. Each truck has three boxes about 5-1/2 feet long, two along the sides and one across the front. A space is left at the front end of the bed between the tree box and the front wall. A simple lid hinged to the box and falling forward to rest on a 2"x4" support makes this space ideal for carrying tools such as shovels and trays. The lid opens by swinging back on the front tree box. When it is closed it does not interfere with the use of the tree box. It makes a good place for the men to store their lunches and coats (my men leave their coats in the truck).

At the rear of the truck there is enough space between the endgates and the two boxes placed longitudinally to place two cream cans and a water cooler without interfering with boarding and leaving the truck.

- Fred R. Yaruss, Okla.

(Note by Operation: From the standpoint of both safety and appearance, truck covers of the type with which Oklahoma has been experimenting appear desirable. It is possible covers of this type are more practicable than those now prescribed as standard for the Project (see Page 24 of the Planting Section of the Timber Management Handbook); if so, we should cash in on Yaruss' suggestion. Let's have your slant on this idea.)

NORTH DAKOTA'S TREE BOUNTY DILEMMA

There was some indication in 1937 that the North Dakota Legislature believed in shelterbelts when they passed on March 9, "An act providing for the allowance of a portion of the cost of planting and growing forest

trees as a bounty therefor," etc. This act provided for a payment of \$4 per acre up to 10 acres per one-quarter section for planting and \$2 per acre up to four years for maintaining forest trees. The act read, "shall plant or have planted."

A controversy developed as to whether this act applied to trees planted by the Forest Service. The Attorney General first ruled that it did and later that it did not. It was rumored that some farmers collected. Most county commissioners couldn't see how they could pay.

Some farmers, backed by the Greater North Dakota Association, brought a civil case to test the constitutionality of the law. The finding of the District Court was that the law was constitutional and farmers entitled to the bounty. This apparently settled little. The county commissioners still didn't want to pay. Some farmers and the Greater North Dakota Association still boosted for the farmers' payment. The case may end in the Supreme Court.

The North Dakota foresters found themselves on the horns of a dilemma. The counties, through their commissioners, were contributing money to further the project in the form of offices, warehouses, gas, oil, and trucks. The Greater North Dakota Association was also boosting the Project. Each side of the controversy would have liked to draw the Forest Service into the argument but we managed to stay neutral.

The most recent development is Senate Bill No. 93, permitting farmers to collect bounty if the Federal Government plants trees for shelterbelts on farms in the same manner as if they planted the trees themselves. This bill was passed by the legislature and signed by the Governor on March 16, 1941.

It looks as if the commissioners lost the argument and will have a financial problem to solve. An estimate of the amount involved is:

1937	-	700 acres @ \$10	\$ 7,000
1938	-	4500 acres @ \$ 8	36,000
1939	-	7000 acres @ \$ 6	42,000
1940	-	<u>6500 acres @ \$ 4</u>	<u>26,000</u>
Total - - - 18700			\$111,000

Estimate for 1941 Season

1941 belts	-	4000 acres @ \$4	\$ 16,000
		18700 acres @ \$2	37,400
			\$ 53,400

The upshot of this matter apparently is that the farmers who do not plant shelterbelts will be taxed for the privilege of remaining aloof from this conservation movement.

As for the Forest Service, we suspect that the county commissioners won't look with favor on assistance to the Forest Service next year. They

know, of course, that we had nothing to do with the legislation, but their financial condition will dictate their policy.

This story, in our humble opinion, ought to prove to even the most skeptical that the North Dakota farmer, who is very well represented in the State legislature, believes in shelterbelts.

- L. A. Williams, N. Dak.

NEWS STORY OF THE MONTH

We depart somewhat this month from choosing a State news story for this department, and have selected instead the following very fine editorial which originated in the Dodge City (Kansas) Globe, and was reproduced in the Topeka Capital:

RENEWED FAITH IN TREES

Whether trees will grow on the high plains should have been answered conclusively by the experience in the shelterbelt plantings. These trees not only have made a remarkably fast growth but also have survived with small mortality. The lesson from this is that the trees will grow if set out properly and cultivated. Tree growing in this region is more than sticking a sapling in the ground. The shelterbelt boys with their thoroughness in soil preparation and care in planting have shown the amateur tree growers the way to do it. It will not be surprising if 1,000,000 trees are planted in Southwest Kansas this year.

The scientists may debate to their hearts' content the theory that trees will temper the climate and bring more rainfall. The one fact about trees that is not debatable is that trees make for happier living. Trees add to the stature of a country without destroying its natural beauty. In the prairie country we prize our wide open spaces, our visibility. Trees will not interfere with these natural beauties of the high plains. Thousands of farm homes with groves to break the landscape will take on new beauty. So much for the esthetic side.

A tree growing area reflects a people who are not afraid of a hard job. To bring the trees thru requires patience and hard work. That always has been the lot of men and women who softened the rugged contours of the new Middle West. They did it gladly and the succeeding generations if they are worthy of their lineage should do likewise. The tree planter today is kin to Johnny Appleseed, the nature lover whose path was marked by lovely temples of leaf and branch.

RANGER BILL RIDES AGAIN!

Recently Hutchinson, Kansas, had an "old timers" celebration and a parade featuring covered wagons, the pony express, prospectors, Indians, cowboys and similar early Americana. Not to be outdone, the local PSFP office entered the parade with an early day Forest Ranger, mounted and leading a pack-horse bearing a sign reading "Since 1890-U. S. Forest Service." The celebration was in honor of Hutchinson's seventieth birthday. Fifty thousand people saw the parade go by and our entry was said to have attracted a lot of attention.

STORING CONIFERS

Ernest D. Moll, Squad Foreman in the St. Paul, Nebraska subdistrict, suggests an experiment for cold storage of conifers which may be worth a trial. It is patterned after the old "ice well" which the early settlers used to some extent on the plains. Moll suggests that a pit six or eight feet deep be dug in the fall and progressively filled with snow during the winter to within a foot or so from the top of the pit. The snow would be put in a foot or two at a time, wet down and permitted to freeze, after which another layer of snow would be packed in, wet down and frozen, repeating this operation until the pit is nearly full, then mulched over the top with straw awaiting delivery of conifers in the spring. The trees, when they arrived from the nursery, would be stored on top of the icy snow until planted. If this system proved satisfactory for storage of conifers our conifer storage problems in outlying areas would be solved.

- John L. Emerson, Nebr.

OUT OF THE NIGHT (SHIRT)

My years of tenure with the Forest Service number but two, and as my position is that of a district clerk, with no technical experience in forestry, it is difficult to even imagine why the State Office would want an article for PLAINS FORESTER from me. Only last month a brilliant example of my wit (used here in the sense of humor) was submitted for publication. It got as far as Lincoln and was returned by the editor because the humor was at the expense of another organization. Of course the article never should have been submitted in that form, but at the time it seemed a good idea.

Also, the editor said that a district clerk must have lots of interesting experiences. To say the least, that is a real understatement. But the next thing is writing of those experiences. There was the time, for example, when a member of the State Office successfully talked a prospective cooperator into planting Quailbush in his shelterbelt in the record time of 25 minutes, only to have the man go hunting for him with intent to commit mayhem when the District Officer explained that Quailbush was the "downtown" name for skunk brush. But how could you relate instances like that without offending someone?

The most interesting correspondence I have handled recently was an attempt to induce a subdistrict officer to get a "Mutual Agreement to Terminate a Lease" signed. The lessor had, in the meantime, run afoul of the law and could not be located by the sheriff. Subdistrict officer wrote as follows: "If the law can't find him, what chance have I; only a mere S.D.O? If they find me with an agreement in one hand and a hole in the middle, just put on my compensation forms 'Died in the line of duty.'"

Seriously, everyone here reads PLAINS FORESTER from "kiver to kiver" the same day received. (Of course, not on official time.) If we thought what we knew would interest anyone, you probably would have more articles to print than could be put in the manual. We think the editors deserve a real bouquet for the fine job they have been doing. It wouldn't be the same Project without the "Tree Man's Paper."

In conclusion, the Weatherford District sends a challenge to any or all Subdistricts, Districts, States, Regions, or what-have-you, for a golfing contest at our local course. We believe we have the roughest, toughest 40-acre pasture you ever swore on. The reason we would like to play here is if we ever got on a smooth course we would likely fall down. Our legs have developed a peculiar rolling side motion from climbing canyons. We will take all comers and if we can't win fair we will figure you out of it.

Note to the Editor: You're my man - I've seen you play.

- Roland Fry, Okla.

(Editor's note: My friend, you are treading upon very dangerous ground there. You may traduce our integrity, trample our honor, and pillory our good name, but who dares to sully our golf game by so much as a breath of derogation bids fair to find himself, when the smoke clears away, sitting on a golden curbstone playing a harp. To paraphrase the bard, "Hell hath no fury like a golfer scorned.")

SCHOOL BULLETIN ADVOCATES TREE PLANTING

The Pierce County, North Dakota, Superintendent of Schools, gets out one of the best monthly bulletins for rural school teachers that we have seen in a long time. It is chock full of interesting study project material and information of interest to teachers, so you would expect to run across somewhere therein the tracks of the local PSFP forester. Nor would you be disappointed. On Page 1 of the issue under consideration is the following announcement:

"Tree Planting is a project promoted by the county Y. C. L. It should have the support of every teacher, pupil and board member. For the present it is chiefly promotional work since the cooperation of school boards and patrons must first be secured before substantial plantings can be made. Teachers and pupils should make a determined effort to interest patrons and board members. Fortunately the U. S. Forest Service has a representative in Rugby in the person of Victor Anderson who is very glad to help us in this project. In another part of this Bulletin you will find a lesson written by Mr. Anderson explaining how trees can be planted on schoolgrounds. Mr. Anderson expects to plant trees this spring on two or three schoolgrounds for demonstration purposes. Seedlings are furnished by his department or may be obtained from the North Dakota School of Forestry at Bottineau for a very modest price. Your and your pupils' chief task is to get your patrons and board to start a program of tree planting on school-grounds. Their first task will be to enlarge the schoolground and cultivate and fence it. Once these things have been done, the Forest Service will plant the trees in the same manner it does the Shelterbelts."

CIRCULAR LETTERS VS. POSTAL CARDS

A short time ago I was talking with one of the men in the Publicity Department of the Kansas State College Extension Service, and was very much interested in a statement he made in connection with the acceptance of informational material by Mr. John Farmer.

He told me that just recently he completed a field trip which pretty thoroughly covered the state and from the conversation he had with farmers up and down the line, they all had about the same story to offer concerning franked envelopes. This was to the effect that unless they were able to see a check in the envelope when they held it up to the sun, the envelope was dropped unopened into the woodbox as soon as they returned to the house.

We don't know, of course, if this applies to our envelopes, but I believe we can safely assume that a greater share of the material sent out by our offices no doubt is unopened or at the best hastily read and then laid aside.

Postal cards offer a possibility of overcoming the chance of unopened material for I think everyone is curious enough to turn over a postal card to see what is on the other side.

Our Government postal card is small (yet it is the largest which can legally be used) but with a little planning and forethought the desired message can readily be placed on it. This point, I believe, is a decided advantage in the postal card's favor, for it would seem that we would have a far better chance for Mr. Farmer to read three or four sentences and remember their contents than that many paragraphs or pages.

We are giving the postal cards a whirl this year, hoping that the desired results will be realized.

- Fred W. Pierce, Kans.

TOWNSHIP TREE COMMITTEE ORGANIZED

At a meeting conducted by Squad Foreman Ralph McClurg and Milo Opdahl, County Agent, 15 Chester Township (Lake County) farmers decided to organize a Township Tree Committee.

Unlike some committees who consider their work completed after they have been elected, this group decided to "work with various landowners, County Agents and Forest Service representatives for mutually planned concentration of plantings and higher standards of tree cultivation."

The group decided to purchase a grape hoe and intends to contact all shelterbelt cooperators and other farmers planting trees, in order to make it a community affair. They also plan to "cooperate with government agencies in planning community rodent control in order to protect the young trees from rabbits and other rodents."

In other words, Ralph has organized a group of farmers who intend to offer considerable competition to those "Kansas Fellers" and intend to do it with deeds - Are you listening Kansas?

- Karl F. Ziegler, S. Dak.

IT'S NOT WHAT YOU DO BUT THE WAY YOU DO IT

Everyone can plant trees --- but experience proves that not everyone can plant them where they'll grow in these plains.

Mr. Johnson, one of our cooperators, approached the office for some information. He explained that he had consulted our field officer in regard to a certain five-row planting, but had been informed that we could not make the planting. Therefore, he purchased the trees from the Clarke-McNary Nursery. His mission to our office at this time was for the purpose of requesting us to plant the trees he had purchased. He gave several excuses why he could not make the planting, one being that he did not have the proper equipment for tree planting and therefore desired us to do the work for him.

It was explained that it would not be possible for us to comply with his request. After a further conversation with Mr. Johnson, he decided to leave the office. He stepped outside the door and then with considerable hesitancy reentered the room and said "You know, to tell the truth about the matter, I really think there's something to the way that you fellows plant those trees. I noticed when they set out my shelterbelt that when a man started to plant the tree he cleaned off a spot with his shovel, turned his shovel backwards, dug and cleaned out the hole and proceeded to plant the tree. All the planters used the same system and I really believe this makes a difference."

So it seems that the public is not only being sold on the shelterbelt itself but also on the way the trees are being planted therein.

- Ancel E. Minyard, Okla.

COUNTRY GENTLEMAN PRAISES PROJECT

Country Gentleman, one of the foremost rural publications in the country, recently had the following to say about this Project:

SHELTER BELT IN DANGER

"The Plains States Forestry Project, generally known as the shelter belt, is in danger of being discontinued. Beginning as something of an object of derision, it has become one of the most popular of all Roosevelt undertakings.

"This tree-growing program has been carried on largely through funds provided by the WPA. Though directed by Forest Service experts, it has had no specific appropriation of Department of Agriculture funds to sustain it. With WPA appropriations being sharply cut the difficulties of carrying on the shelterbelt work pile up. What is needed, those supporting the project say, is a specific appropriation to complete the work with skilled help.

"Opinion generally is that Nebraska's ranch-born Paul H. Roberts and his force have done one of the remarkable jobs of our time. The shelterbelt project was carried on during the most unfavorable weather period in the known history of the Plains. Yet thousands of acres of thick tree growth now attest its success. And it has all been done at a cost of little over six cents a tree."

Also, in the same issue, was a photograph of a grape hoe cultivating a shelterbelt, and the following explanation:

"NEW TOOL TO CULTIVATE TREES. Tough problem for farmers with shelterbelts and woodlots requiring cultivation while trees are young and

tender are the weeds between tree rows. Ordinary implements won't get close enough and hand hoeing is the result. A newly developed tool, called the shelterbelt hoe, built with its blade on a swinging beam so the operator can get the weeds but dodge it in and out of the row to miss trees or shrubs, answers this problem and eliminates hand work. A simple, inexpensive cultivator, it is powered either by horses or light tractor. Picture shows the shelterbelt hoe chained to a tractor for use in a young tree planting. The cultivator would be useful in some young orchards."

HALL HAS PIECE IN KANSAS MAGAZINE

A recent number of "Progress in Kansas," illustrated monthly magazine of the Kansas State Chamber of Commerce, contains an article by John D. Hall, administrative assistant in the Kansas State Office. Hall's subject is Arbor Day, a celebration of unusual significance in Kansas this year. The cover of the magazine also carries an Arbor Day message.

Hall says, "Although this year the Old World is awakening to a spring of destruction, it is still possible in America to continue strengthening and conserving our natural resources. Tree planting is distinctly one of these activities. Trees planted in city parks or on streets make for greater happiness of future generations because of the shade, beauty, and protection they afford; those planted in the heart of a natural forest help to heal such scars as those caused by fire, or too heavy lumbering activities; and those planted on prairie farms help to tame and temper destructive winds, thus protecting soil and crops."

AN ECONOMICAL, SERVICEABLE, CINEMA SCREEN

In this district we have manufactured a projection screen which performed well in service. Here is how it is done:

Buy a good grade cloth window shade of light color with roller and mount it on a four-inch-wide board. Put an eye screw in each end. String these eyes with a clothesline rope long enough to be adjusted for height with a simple knot.

Spray paint this screen with one light coat of aluminum lacquer. The ten-minute drying kind is best. Do not use an oil base paint as this will form a film which will crack on rolling. The base of lacquer evaporates completely, leaving only a deposit of aluminum on the curtain. Attach a small weight to the bottom of the curtain to hold it straight.

You now have a projection screen. Cost for 54-inch wide screen, \$3.00.
- L. C. Baskin, N. Dak.

A BOOST FOR SHELTERBELTS

The National Farm Loan Association, of Altus, Oklahoma, got out a leaflet to the membership recently on the occasion of the annual stockholders' meeting, which contains a very good plug for shelterbelt planting.

Shelterbelts are named among several practices which farmers should adopt to "help make our association stronger," to quote the leaflet.

Local National Farm Loan Associations are pretty well scattered throughout the farming country, and are under the direction of the Farm Credit Administration. They have in the aggregate, a large membership and, generally speaking, of the more progressive type of farmers.

SHELTERBELTS HAVE "MADE" FICTION

Alice Lent Covert's interesting short story "Faith Is The Thing" in the June issue of the Cosmopolitan magazine dramatically refers to "tree belts" and "striplings.....set out by the government" as they aid in the reclamation of a farm in the Dust Bowl.

The following excerpts are the references to the shelterbelts:

"Alfalfa up on the north forty--been nothin' there but sand for years. Wheat across from the tree belt. It's a nice spread. Give us another year."

"A yellow ribbon of road cut across the dark expanse, and on each side of the right of way stretched the tree belt, brave young green sentinels that would one day stand guard against havoc and destruction."

"And there were the trees. Striplings, most of them, set out by the government to replace the defeated oldsters which stood along the creek banks and roads, limbs drooping and leafless. Weeds and striplings, and wheat cut green to cheat the wind. A man staked his future on that."

"Brave young striplings grown to sturdy, protecting trees....."

- Ena M. Lind, Nebr.

IS THIS A COMMON SITUATION?

A recent report on a District inspection makes the following interesting observation:

"It was noted that in many cases heavy concentrations of existing belts occur near main traveled roads and highways.. The District Officer feels that this may be due to the fact that the public most often using these roads frequently observes the belts and that desire is thus created. A check of the various counties in the State indicates that there is a noticeable trend toward more belts near main roads. Whether this indicates that our negotiators have been slighting farmers in the back country, that the more progressive farmers live near the main roads, that the belts are selling themselves to those who see them most frequently, or that it 'just happens,' I would not attempt to say."

It would be interesting to know whether this is true throughout the Project. If it is, and the reason can be determined, it might furnish a lead for improvement of farmer acceptance elsewhere.

- E. L. Perry, R. O.

TREES RIVAL FAMOUS BEANSTALK

Howard Carleton, the Project's 33d Degree ornithological fan, has the following to say in a personal note to a member of the Regional Office:

"The trees are growing like Jack's beanstalk this year, and new birds are coming in to nest. The Kentucky Cardinal, never known to nest here before, is here in large numbers. The shelterbelts may not be changing the climate but they are certainly revolutionizing the ecological relations between the Plains and bird life.

"Our Black Locust, Mulberry, Cottonwood, and Chinks have already grown from six to ten inches (May 5) and several branches at that. The other day we were working in one of these 1941 belts and one of the boys saw a young jack rabbit sitting under a Mulberry tree. He threw his shovel and pinned the rabbit to the ground and caught it before it could get away.

"Doubtless a report next fall of 97.6% survival would completely demoralize the RO, and I suggest you come out yourself this summer and verify the facts. It has rained every day for the last eight, with an average of over half an inch. It rained 16 days in April, and so far has rained every day in May. Rainfall May 1 to 4 - 3.47 inches."

DESK BOOK FOR NEWS WRITERS

To those who have anything to do with the preparation of news releases, and I believe most of our regular personnel have this responsibility, I recommend the Iowa Newspaper Desk Book if you do not already have a copy. It is published by the University of Iowa at Iowa City. It costs only a dime.

Having been called upon occasionally to prepare the usual weekly news release, I have found the condensed practical suggestions in this publication very helpful. The publication includes, among several others, the following sections: Reporting, Capitalization, Punctuation, Abbreviation, Figures, Spelling, and Faults in Diction. Each rule given is generously illustrated. I'm sure you will find it a good investment.

- John D. Hall, Kans.

RACKS, BOOK (BULLETIN)

Recently the Division of Operation noticed several purchase orders from North Dakota indicating that the items were to be used for the construction of bulletin boxes, and inquired regarding the nature of the containers.

The North Dakota State Office replied as follows: "We recently submitted a Form AD-108 covering the eight 'Racks, Book (Bulletin)' to which you refer. These racks are 19 3/4" x 24" x 8" and they will hold and display various Forest Service leaflets, bulletins, application forms, etc. in county agents' offices. They cost a total of \$16.50 or approximately \$2.02 each. They are varnished and oak color and are neat in appearance."

BACKSTAGE

Oklahoma's Jim Kyle was recently asked to cut some cross-sections of shelterbelt trees to be used in an exhibit at Lincoln. A penciled note from him says:

"I sure hope you get as big a kick out of exhibiting these cuts as I have out of growing and harvesting them. As you have perhaps read, it has been raining so much down here that even the frogs are complaining. I got stuck twice getting the specimens and had to get a tractor to pull me out. I have lost 20 years from my life chopping and transporting these tree trunks on my shoulder some quarter mile to get them out of the swamps to where my log wagon was parked.

"Moreover, I had quite a time finding some little scrubby stuff that I could carry, and then, too, I knew that if I cut my good trees the transportation costs would eat up all our "other" money. However, I hope these sections will prove to be OK."

OKLAHOMA HAPPENINGS

Your Oklahoma Correspondent seems to have fallen down on the job of "spot news" reporting, due to spring fever. (Oklahoma's early springs are tough on a Northerner, but we suspect that the true cause for the delay is inertia.)

In any event, several occurrences worthy of reporting have come up in the last few weeks and we give them herewith as they came to us.

We understand that Fred Yaruss is the proud poppa of a four and a half pound son and heir. Mrs. Yaruss is doing well, as is the Yaruss' heir. Please note that a boy baby finally graces the Project after lo' these many years.

Roland Fry passed cigars at the conference at Weatherford on April 29 in honor of the arrival of a daughter. More power to you, Mr. and Mrs. Fry.

We have also heard that Conrad Borsting has set sail upon the shoreless seas of matrimony, but no one has bothered to tell us the bride's maiden name, nor do we even know if she's a blonde, brunet, or redhead. Be that as it may, we extend our cordial good wishes to the "Bright and Gloom" and hope the waters of their matrimonial sea remain blue and unruffled.

That seems to be all for the nonce, but more heirs, we hear, will be reported in the fall. (Is there such a thing as fall fever? I'm going to need another alibi.)

- K. W. Taylor, Okla.

R.O. VISITORS

We enjoyed having three visitors from the Washington Office during the past month: R. M. Sickles, L. C. Pratt, and H. C. Maaske. Mr. Sickles was here to discuss the merits of the new accounting procedure which is being put into effect July 1 in all of the Regions of the Forest Service. Mr. Pratt spent two weeks making an audit of Fiscal Control records, and H. C. Maaske, formerly a member of the R. O. Division of Operation, made a brief survey of procurement problems.